Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: WELCH ASSASSINATION CONTINUES AS MAJOR TOPIC

OF DISCUSSION

REF: 75 THESSALONIKI 705, 75 THESSALONIKI 706

1. WELCH ASSASSINATION, EVENTS SURROUNDING IT, INVESTIGATION OF IT, AND STORIES ABOUT THE CIA IN GENERAL HAVE CONTINUED AS FRONT-PAGE NEWS FOR LAST TWO WEEKS AND ARE USUALLY INCLUDED BY GREEKS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH CONSULATE OFFICERS. NEWS STORIES ARE NORMALLY TRIGGERED BY SOME EVENT SUCH AS WELCH FUNERAL, FURTHER CIA "REVELATIONS", ETC. IN ABSENCE OF THESE, JOURNALISTIC IMAGINATION SUFFICES. FOR EXAMPLE, TODAY'S "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" HEADLINES "EXTENSIVE SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE CONSULS" WITH PHOTOGRAPH OF POLICE CAR OUTSIDE RESIDENCE OF JUSMAGG LIAISON OFFICER. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" FOR LAST TWO DAYS HAS ALSO HAD EDITORIALS COMMENTING ON MRS. WELCH'S DEPARTURE FROM GREECE AND HER ALLEGED FAILURE, BY HER EARLY DEPARTURE, TO COOPERATE WITH GREEK INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITIES.

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2. OUR PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL CONTACTS CONTINUE TO

UNIVERSALLY CONDEMN THE KILLING AND EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR THE WELCH FAMILY. MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS MINISTER OF NORTHERN GREECE MARTIS WHO, IN MEETING WITH CONGEN OFFICERS JANUARY 8, AGAIN EXPRESSED SHOCK AND SORROW OVER THE KILLING; MARTIS ALSO DEPLORED RECENT PRESS STORIES.

3. LOCAL GOG CONCERN IS ALSO EVIDENT BY THE EXTENSIVE SECURITY WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE. FOLLOW CARS ARE ASSIGNED TO ME, COONY AND JUSMAGG LIAISON OFFICER, AND A BODYGUARD IS ASSIGNED TO BPAO. POLICE COVERAGE OF CONSULATE HAS BEEN AUGMENTED AND RESIDENCES OF BPAO AND JUSMAGG LIAISON OFFICER REMAIN UNDER 24-HOUR PROTECTION. NEGROPONTE

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